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ALEXANDRIA VA 22314

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of :
Youichi Akasaka et al. :
Application No. 10/824,402 :
Filed: April 15, 2004 :
Attorney Docket No. 250980US8DIV :

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition filed August 14, 2008, to withdraw the holding of abandonment under 37 CFR 1.181, in accordance with the reasoning of the decision in Delgar Inc. v. Schuyler, 172 USPQ 513.

The petition under 37 CFR 1.181(b) is **DISMISSED**.

This application became abandoned August 8, 2007 for failure to file a timely reply to the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers mailed June 7, 2007, which set a 60 day period for reply. No response having been filed, a Notice of Abandonment was mailed November 6, 2007.

The file record discloses that the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers was mailed to what was believed to be the address of record. However, petitioner contends that it was not received. In support of this contention, petitioner indicates that the mail log shows no record of receipt and provides copies of the mail log for the instant application.

Unfortunately, the requirement under 37 CFR 1.181, that copies of the actual docket records or file jacket be provided, has not been met. In a petition under 37 CFR 1.181 the petitioner must show, as in this instance where non-receipt is claimed that petitioner is without fault in not receiving the communication. In the absence of any irregularity in the mailing, there is a strong presumption that the Office action was properly mailed to the address of record. This presumption may be overcome by a showing that the Office action was not in fact received at the address of record.

The statements and the mail log are not enough to substantiate the claim of non-receipt and no other corroborating evidence to prove non-receipt has been presented. In view thereof, the holding of abandonment cannot be withdrawn.

ALTERNATIVE VENUES

Petitioner may wish to consider filing a renewed petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)¹ or 37 CFR 1.137(b),² which now provides that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b).

The filing of a petition under the unintentional standard cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore should be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the delay from the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioner intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

¹A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In a nonprovisional utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995, and abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may also be met by the filing of a request for continued examination in compliance with § 1.114. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof.
- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l);
- (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Commissioner that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable; and
- (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c)).

²Effective December 1, 1997, the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) now provide that where the delay in reply was unintentional, a petition may be filed to revive an abandoned application or a lapsed patent pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition filed under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the required reply, unless previously filed. In a nonprovisional application abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may be met by the filing of a continuing application. In a nonprovisional application filed on or after June 8, 1995, and abandoned for failure to prosecute, the required reply may also be met by the filing of a request for continued examination in compliance with § 1.114. In an application or patent, abandoned or lapsed for failure to pay the issue fee or any portion thereof, the required reply must be the payment of the issue fee or any outstanding balance thereof. In an application abandoned for failure to pay the publication fee, the required reply must include payment of the publication fee.

- (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(m);

- (3) a statement that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional; and

- (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(c)).

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By FAX: (571) 273-8300

Telephone inquiries concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned
Petitions Attorney at (571) 272-3212.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patricia Faison-Ball". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Patricia Faison-Ball
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions